

In view of the proper withdrawal of all rejections based on *Welcher* because *Welcher* is not citable as prior art against the application, or alternatively, in view of the arguments presented that traverse the rejections based on the cited art, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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